

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS, AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 46 and 47 remain pending. Claims 1, 7, 46 and 47 are independent. Claims 1 and 7 are amended to clarify the claimed invention and to obviate any ambiguity that might otherwise be present. Claim 47 is similar to claim 1, but is not written in means plus function form. Claim 46 is similar to claim 1 but does not recite the monitoring function. The subject matter of claim 46 is described at, for example, paragraphs [0063]-[0070] of Applicants' published application

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C., §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification.

II. REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 4, 5 and, by implication, claims 7, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 7 are not amended in response to this rejection because these claims recited, "holding information indicating those receivers..." and not -- holding information indicating of those receivers ... -- as asserted in the Office Action. It is believed the word "of" was deleted from these claims, but the copy of the claim amendments might not have been clear.

In any event, claims 1 and 7 are amended to recite an additional feature; and as presented, claims 1 and 7 continue to recite, “holding information indicating those receivers...”.

Claims 1 and 7 also were rejected on the ground that the recitation, “and for controlling the signal transmitted,” is unclear. However, this signal is recited as being the signal transmitted by the transmitter, as stated in the preambles of these claims.

Claims 4 and 10 are canceled to obviate the recitation of a trademark.

Claims 3 and 9 are canceled; and the features recited heretofore by claims 3 and 9 are incorporated into claims 1 and 7, respectively. The dependencies of claims 5 and 11 are amended accordingly.

Claims 46 and 47 are added to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 46 and 47 are presented for further consideration.

Claims 1-11 were rejected as being anticipated by the newly cited patent to Okuyama (U.S. Patent 5,987,126). It is respectfully submitted, Okuyama fails to suggest the monitoring and transmission prohibition feature now recited in all of the claims.

As claimed, if a change is detected in the connection of the receiver to the transmitter (e.g. the receiver is disconnected or a different receiver is connected) while the transmitter is transmitting a non-protected content signal, the transmitter is controlled to not transmit the non-protected signal (e.g. transmission is stopped or the protected content signal replaces the non-protected signal). See claims 1 and 47. Claim 7 is similar to claim 1, but states that the transmission of the non-protected signal is prohibited when this change is detected.

Okuyama does not suggest this feature. Notwithstanding the Examiner’s reference to col. 26, lines 24-32 of Okuyama, neither this portion nor any other portion reviewed by Applicants’

representative describes or even remotely suggests that a change in the connected receiver is monitored; and if a change is detected while a non-protected content signal is being transmitted, further transmission of the non-protected signal ends. Okuyama sends protected or non-protected signals to different receivers, depending upon their authentication. But, if a non-protected signal is being transmitted to a receiving device, and if a change in the connection of a receiving device is detected, Okuyama does not prohibit transmission of the non-protected signal, nor does Okuyama control his transmitter to not transmit the non-protected signal.

Therefore, in view of this significant difference between Applicants' claimed invention and Okuyama, the withdrawal of the rejections of the claims as being anticipated by Okuyama is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1; and claims 8 and 11 depend from claim 7. Since these dependent claims include all of the recitations recited by the respective independent claim from which they depend, the withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested for those reasons discussed above.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted Okuyama does not suggest the following steps recited in claim 46:

deciding whether or not a connected receiver is based on a specification including an encryption technology for copyright protection; [and]

deciding whether or not name information of the connected receiver is included in information held in a transmitter indicating receivers not having being able to copy content of a received content signal, when it is not decided that the connected receiver is based on the specification including the encryption technology for copyright protection.

Therefore, since limitations found in method claim 46 find no correspondence in Okuyama, it is respectfully submitted that claim 46 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Okuyama.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in Okuyama, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of Okuyama providing the basis for a contrary view.

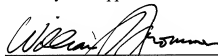
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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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